



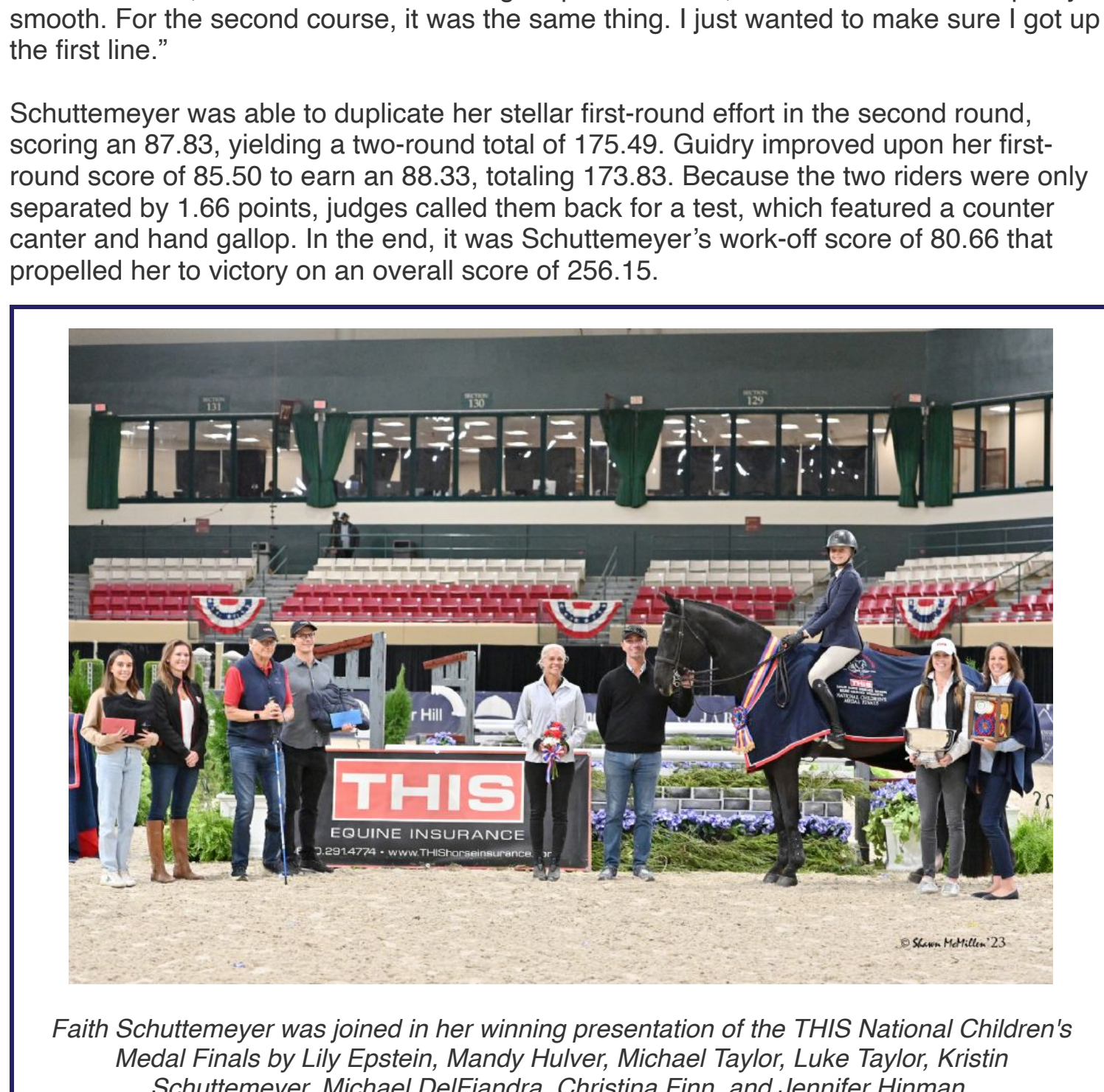
[Results and Orders](#)

[Live Stream](#)

Faith Schuttemeyer and Blackjack Ace the Taylor Harris Insurance Services National Children's Medal Finals

Equitation Weekend, presented by [BIGEQ.com](#), during the 30th anniversary of the Capital Challenge Horse Show in Upper Marlboro, MD, continued on Saturday, September 30, where nine more championships were awarded. Faith Schuttemeyer, 14, of Boynton Beach, FL, led the victory gallop in The Show Place Arena at Prince George's Equestrian Center after winning the Taylor Harris Insurance Services (THIS) National Children's Medal Finals with a final score of 256.15. Hailey Guidry, 13, of Wellington, FL, piloted Cornet's Sunshine to the reserve championship honors, and Brooke Hagerty, 15, of Terrebonne, OR, rounded out the top three aboard Mascotte vd Witheove.

Riders spend the year earning points towards qualification of the finals with only the top 41 invited to compete at Capital Challenge. Three panels each composed of two judges oversaw the class, where riders contested the Ken Krome-designed course in reverse order of qualification. Mark Jungherr and Chris Wynne made up the first panel, while Virginia Edwards and Michael Tokaruk sat on the second panel, and Mark Bone and Sissy Wickes represented the third panel. Each panel provided one score, and the average of the three resulted in the rider's overall mark. The top 10 then returned for a second round in reverse order of their first-round scores, with Schuttemeyer last to come back on her first-round score of 87.66.



Faith Schuttemeyer and Blackjack
Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

"I thought everything walked pretty straight forward," said Schuttemeyer, who trains with Michael DelFiandra of Grafton Ridge in South Salem, NY, along with her mom, Kristin. "In the first course, I wanted to make sure I got up the first line, and then the rest was pretty smooth. For the second course, it was the same thing, I just wanted to make sure I got up the first line."

Schuttemeyer was able to duplicate her stellar first-round effort in the second round, scoring an 87.83, yielding a two-round total of 175.49. Guidry improved upon her first-round score of 85.50 to earn an 88.33, totaling 173.83. The two riders were only separated by 1.66 points, judges called them back for a test, which featured a counter canter and hand gallop. In the end, it was Schuttemeyer's work-off score of 80.66 that propelled her to victory on an overall score of 256.15.



Faith Schuttemeyer was joined in her winning presentation of the THIS National Children's Medal Finals by Lily Epstein, Mandy Hulver, Michael Taylor, Luke Taylor, Kristin Schuttemeyer, Michael DelFiandra, Christina Finn, and Jennifer Hinman.
Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

"It's pretty nerve-racking when you're waiting to test," reflected Schuttemeyer. "My trainer says to trust my eye and take a deep breath. I was focusing on the counter canter because the angle to the first jump was a little challenging. After that, I was trying to be careful not to swap leads in front of the second jump, and then I was focused on doing the inside turn after the hand gallop to the last two jumps."

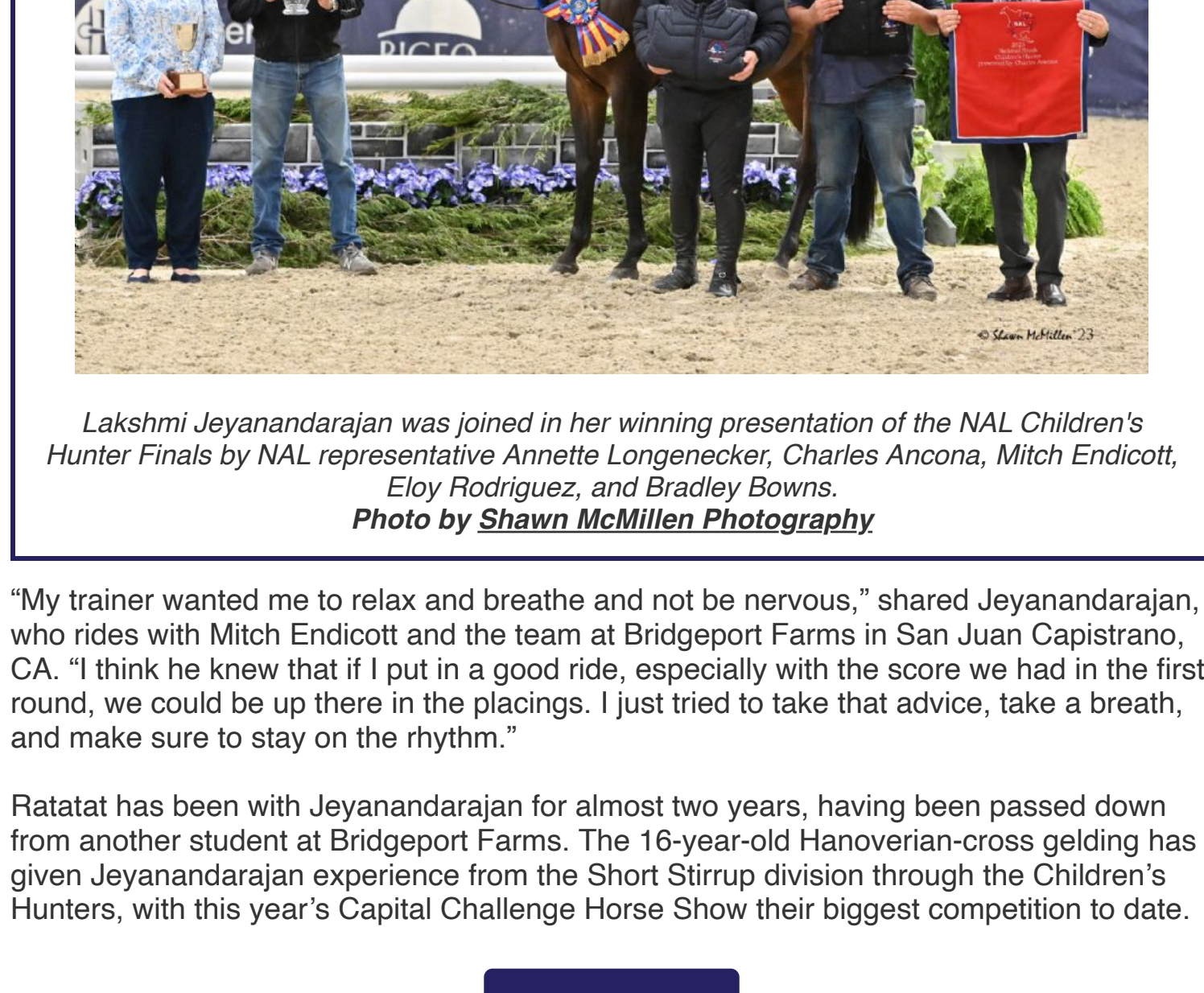
Schuttemeyer's mount for the class, Blackjack, was paired with Schuttemeyer's mom in the jumper ring 10 years ago. He then reconnected with the family four years ago, becoming a formidable partner for Schuttemeyer as she began her foray into the equitation classes.

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And Just Like That Lakshmi Jayanandaran and Ratatat Win the \$10,000 North American League Children's Hunter Finals

Day three of the 2023 Capital Challenge Horse Show concluded with all eyes on The Show Place Arena as Lakshmi Jayanandaran, 17, of Irvine, CA, guided Ratatat over two beautiful rounds for the top overall score of 169.00 in the \$10,000 North American League (NAL) Children's Hunter Finals, presented by Charles Ancona. Taylor Abraham, 16, of Aiken, SC, rode Leanna Lazzari's UFO de Nisi to the reserve championship honors with a total score of 163.25, while Campbell Cauthen, 13, of Lexington, KY, completed the top three with a score of 162.25 aboard Qorlois Effect SCF, owned by DCTM LLC.

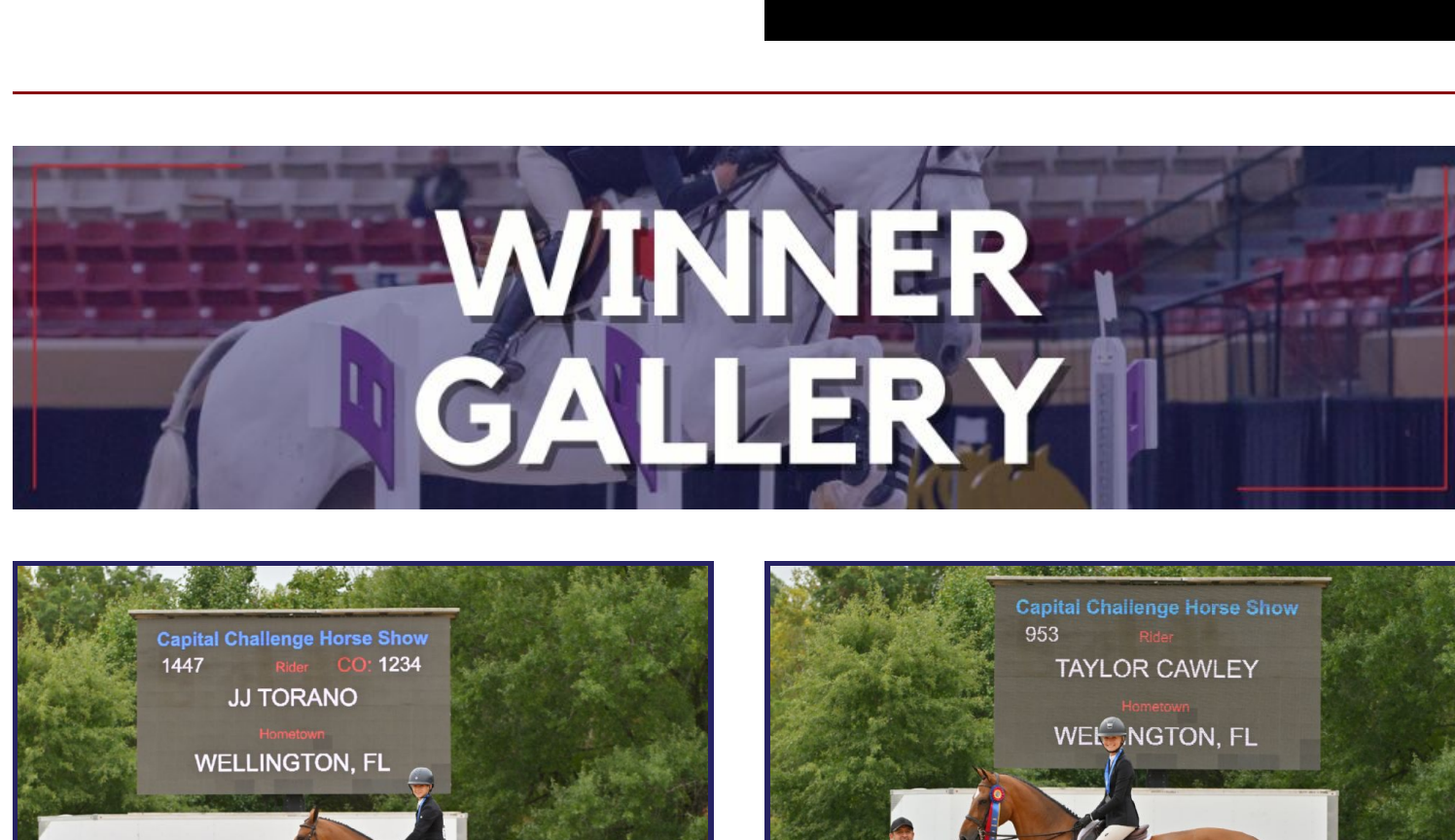
Twenty-nine riders qualified for this year-end final by accumulating points in the NAL Children's Hunter competitions throughout the year. After the first round, the top 12 returned in reverse order of merit, where Jayanandaran came back last, carrying the high first-round score of 85.75 from judges Virginia Edwards and Mark Jungherr.



Lakshmi Jayanandaran and Ratatat
Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

"There was definitely pressure going into the second round with the high score and coming back last," said Jayanandaran. "In your mind, you know you can do it, but you want to make sure to have a good ride and put up a score that's good enough to stay on top. So, there was pressure, but I just wanted to go in there and ride my best and wherever we ended up, we ended up."

Once again, Jayanandaran guided Ratatat to the best score of round two, this time earning an 83.25 to seal the deal for the overall win.



Lakshmi Jayanandaran was joined in her winning presentation of the NAL Children's Hunter Finals by NAL representative Annette Longenecker, Charles Ancona, Mitch Endicott, Eloy Rodriguez, and Bradley Bowns.
Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

"My trainer wanted me to relax and breathe and not be nervous," shared Jayanandaran, who rides with Mitch Endicott and the team at Bridgeport Farms in San Juan Capistrano, CA. "I think he knew that if I put in a good ride, especially with the score we had in the first round, we could be up there in the placings. I just tried to take that advice, take a breath, and make sure to stay on the rhythm."

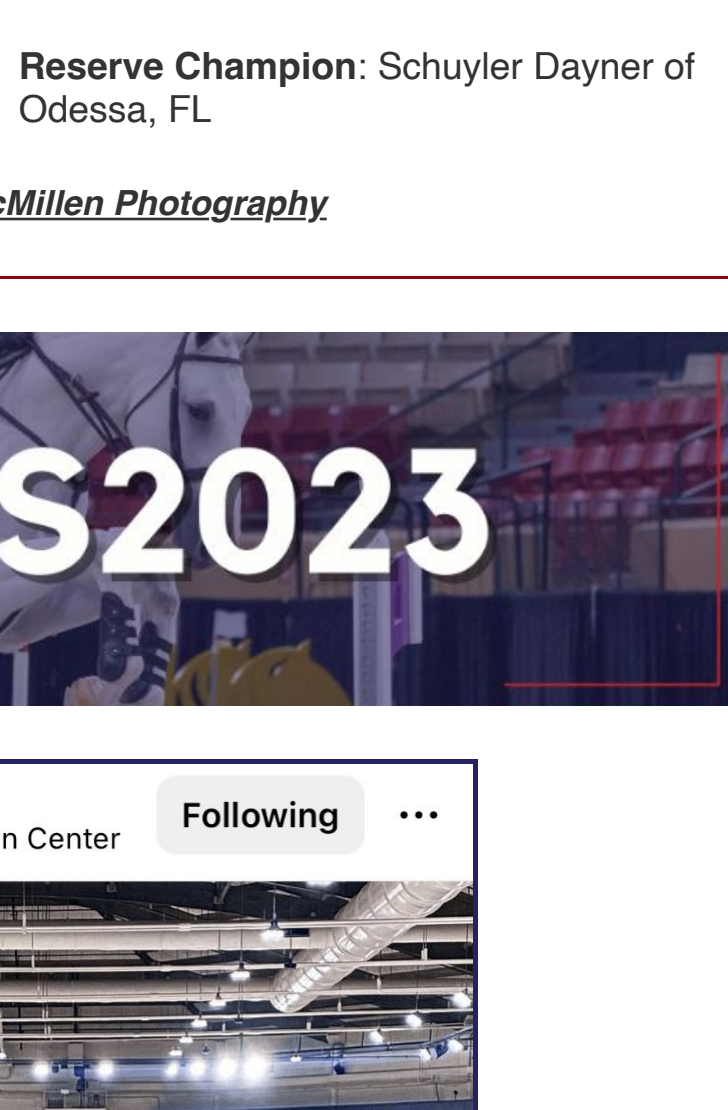
Ratatat has been with Jayanandaran for almost two years, having been passed down from another student at Bridgeport Farms. The 16-year-old Hanoverian-cross gelding has given Jayanandaran experience from the Short Stirrup division through the Children's Hunters, with this year's Capital Challenge Horse Show their biggest competition to date.

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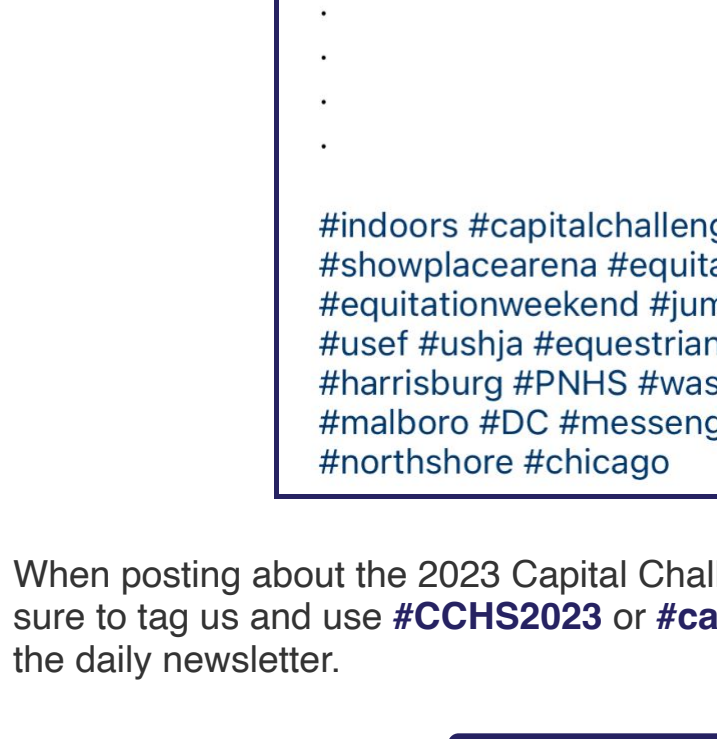
WORDS FROM THE WINNERS

Learn about Faith Schuttemeyer following her win in the THIS National Children's Medal Finals!

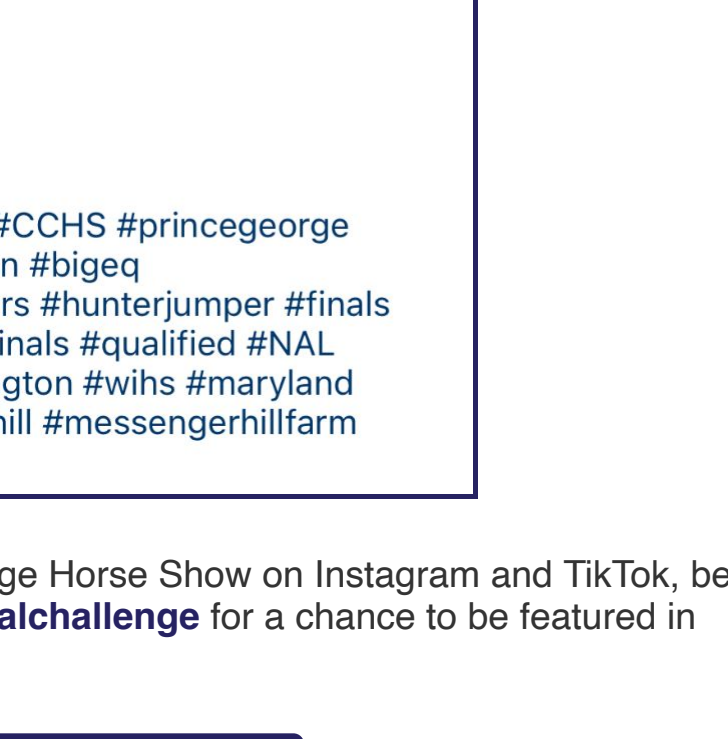
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WINNER GALLERY



12 & Under Equitation
Champion: JJ Torano of Wellington, FL
Reserve Champion: Katherine Mercer of Wellington, FL



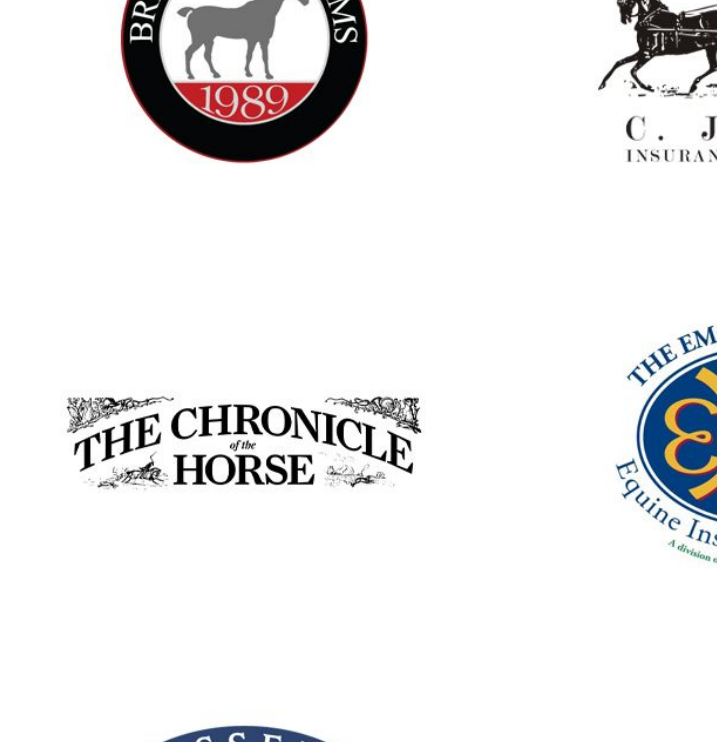
13- & 14-Year-Old Equitation
Champion: Taylor Cawley of Wellington, FL
Reserve Champion: Olivia Sweetnam of Wellington, FL



15-Year-Old Equitation
Champion: Shiloh Roseboom of Brentwood, TN
Reserve Champion: Adriana Forte of Water Mill, NY



16-Year-Old Equitation
Co-Champion: Kaitlyn Kiely of Rumson, NJ
Co-Champion: Ariana Marnell of Las Vegas, NV



17-Year-Old Equitation
Champion: Carlee McCutcheon of Aubrey, TX
Reserve Champion: Tessa Downey of Houston, TX



North American Flat Equitation Championships
Champion: Taylor Cawley of Wellington, FL
Reserve Champion: Schuyler Dayner of Odessa, FL

Photos by Shawn McMillen Photography

#CCHS2023



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About the Capital Challenge Horse Show

The Capital Challenge Horse Show, an official USEF Heritage Competition, has a distinct and unique focus on preeminent hunter and equitation competition. The 2023 edition of the Capital Challenge Horse Show will take place from September 28-October 8. The 11 days of competition will include prestigious equitation events, jumper divisions, the World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Finals, the \$25,000 3' and 3'3" Green Hunter North American Championships, and more, with many of the country's best horses and riders competing in junior, amateur, and professional divisions.

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